

Nick Mason

From: Paul Budde [Paul@budde.com.au]
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Subject: Convict Trail Project welcome's World Heritage Listing

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The Convict Trail Project is celebrating the fact the UNESCO's (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) World Heritage Committee meeting has accepted Australia's nomination for the inclusion of eleven Convict sites on the World Heritage List. This nomination includes a significant part of the Great North Road, specifically the road up Devines Hill and Finch's Line on the northern side of the Hawkesbury River. These sites contain some spectacular convict-built road works including buttressed walls that are actually drains to take the water away from the walls on Devines Hill. The Great North Road now joins other significant sites such as Port Arthur and parts of Norfolk Island on the World Heritage List.

The listing will lift the profile of this important part of Australia's history and will most certainly increase Australian tourism as some tour group actually use the World Heritage List as a guide for their travel itinerary.

The Convict Trail Project cares for the full 220 kms of the Great North Road, not only the stretch of the Road which is now listed, so believes that there is now an opportunity for all towns along the full length of the Road to participate in the celebration of the listing. It is now also critical that all thirteen local councils along the Road maximise the effect of the listing and make sure that they promote and support the Road as a gateway to their cities, attractions, harbours, eco-tourist sites and Aboriginal history.

The Convict Trail Project would like to thank Bruce Baskerville, formerly of the NSW Heritage Branch, other Heritage Branch staff members and the staff at the federal Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts for preparing the listing and presenting this to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. It has been a wait well worth waiting for since the Australian Government announced, in January 2007, their intention to nominate the sites.

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Photos available.

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